

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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DEPT FOR ELTZ AND PASCUA (ARA/ECA/BR)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (DAVIS FAMILY), BR

SUBJ: UPDATE ON DAVIS CASE

REF: A. 76 BRASILIA 10174 B. 76 BRASILIA 10190

1. LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN DAVIS CASE WAS TRIP MADE TO BELEM MARCH 31 - APRIL 1 BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, WHO MET WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH CASE, AS WELL AS WITH EMMA DAVIS (DAUGHTER).

2. EMMA DAVIS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, AND PRESENTED MIXED PICTURE OF RECENT EVENTS. ON ONE HAND, SHE INDICATED FAMILY IN TROUBLE WITH RIO BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS GOOD PROSPECTS OF FINDING BUYER FOR FAMILY'S ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND HECTARE PROPERTY IN PARA STATE (CAPAZ). STATE POLICE RECENTLY HAD PROVED HIGHLY RESPONSIVE WHEN NOTIFIED THAT THEFT OF WOOD WAS IN PROGRESS; A SPECIAL DETACHMENT WAS SENT TO CAPAZ AND ARRESTED EIGHT POACHERS. DAVISES HOPE LOCAL PUBLICITY THAT RESULTED WILL HAVE BROAD DETERRENT EFFECT. ON OTHER HAND, EMMA DAVIS REPORTS, ONE OF THE POLICE-MEN GUARDING DAVIS LANDS HAD BEEN FOUND CONSTRUCTING HIS OWN HOUSE ON PREMISES; EMMA DAVIS HAS INFORMED LOCAL ARMY GENERAL

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AND ANTICIPATES PROMPT ACTION. TWO RINGLEADERS OF JULY 3, 1976, KILLINGS ARE STILL AT LARGE AND HAVE TURNED UP IN CAPAZ AREA, A MATTER FOR SOME CONCERN.

3. DCM CALLED ON ACTING PARA STATE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, COL. ARTHUR CORREIA DA SILVA, TO EXPRESS CONTINUING EMBASSY CONCERN FOR SECURITY OF DAVISES. CORREIA EMPHASIZED HIS STRONG

INTEREST IN CASE AND CITED FAST ACTION TAKEN AGAINST WOOD THIEVES. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT JULY 3 ATTACK WAS WORK OF SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS, NOT ORDINARY SQUATTERS.

4. DCM MET WITH DR. PAULO MEIRA, FEDERAL PROSECUTOR GENERAL FOR PARA STATE. INDICATING THAT INVESTIGATION OF JULY KILLINGS HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF SUBVERSION, MEIRA SAID THAT CASE WAS A MATTER FOR STATE, NOT FEDERAL COURTS, BUT OFFERED TO INTEREST HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN OUR EFFORTS TO INSURE SPEEDY PROSECUTION, AND PROMISED FOLLOW UP FROM TIME TO TIME. WPH STATE PROSECUTOR GENERAL.

5. DCM THEN CALLED ON PARA STATE PROSECUTOR GENERAL DR. ALMIR LIMA, TO EMPHASIZE OUR VIEW THAT UNTIL GUILTY ARE CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED, A DANGEROUS SITUATION PERSISTS AT CAPAZ BECAUSE OF RETURN TO AREA OF SUSPECTS. LIMA INDICATED CASE WOULD BE TRIED IN A COURT IN SAN DOMINGOS DE CAPIM IN SOUTHERN PARA, NEAR SCENE OF CRIME. HE CALLED IN LAWYER ASSIGNED TO PROSECUTE CASE, WHO PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH JUDGE HAVING JURISDICTION AND PROVIDE AMCONSUL BELEM WITH REPORT ON STATUS OF CASE ON COURT DOCKET.

6. ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT SINCE REFTELS WAS RECEIPT FEBRUARY FROM ITAMARATI OF TERSE REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF JULY 3 MURDERS (COPY PREVIOUSLY POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT), WHICH EMBASSY FORWARDED TO DAVIS FAMILY. FYI, DAVIS CASE EXPOSE PROMISED BY NEWSPAPER CORREIO BRASILIENSE AND MENTIONED REFTEL (A) NEVER MATERIALIZED.
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CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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